

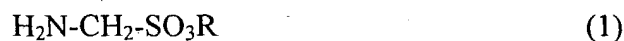
## CLAIMS

What we claim is:

1. A medicinal composition comprising aminomethanesulfonic acid as an active  
5 ingredient wherein the aminomethanesulfonic acid is in the free form or in a form of a salt or  
an ester.

2. The medicinal composition according to claim 1, wherein the  
aminomethanesulfonic acid is in a form of an ester.

3. The medicinal composition according to claim 2, wherein the ester is represented  
10 by the following formula (1)



in which R is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon(s).

4. The medicinal composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is in a  
form suitable for inhibition of production of  $\text{TNF}\alpha$ .

15 5. The medicinal composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is in a  
form suitable for treatment of liver diseases.

6. The medicinal composition according to claim 1, wherein the  
aminomethanesulfonic acid is in a form of a salt.

7. The medicinal composition according to claim 6, wherein the salt is selected from  
20 the group consisting of sodium salt, potassium salt, calcium salt, magnesium salt and  
ammonium salt.

8. The medicinal composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is in a  
form selected from the group consisting of a solution, a granule, a tablet, and a powder.

9. The medicinal composition according to claim 8, wherein said  
25 aminomethanesulfonic acid is present at a concentration suitable to provide 1 mg to 10 g per  
day to a patient in need thereof.

10. The medicinal composition according to claim 1, further comprising one or more  
additives selected from the group consisting of fillers, diluents, additives, disintegrating  
agents, binders, coating agents, lubricants, gliding agents, lubricating agents, flavoring  
30 agents, sweeteners, solubilizing agents, spices, dyes, and nutrients.

11. A method for inhibiting the production of  $\text{TNF}\alpha$ , comprising administering to a  
patient in need thereof an effective amount of a medicinal composition comprising  
aminomethanesulfonic acid.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the aminomethanesulfonic acid is in a form of a salt or an ester.

13. The method according to claim 11, wherein said effective amount is 1 mg to 10 g per day.

5 14. The method according to claim 11, wherein said effective amount is 10 mg to 5 g per day per day.

15. The method according to claim 11, wherein said effective amount is 100 mg to 1 g per day.

10 16. A method for treatment, amelioration and/or prevention of liver diseases, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a medicinal composition comprising aminomethanesulfonic acid.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the aminomethanesulfonic acid is in a form of a salt or an ester.

15 18. The method according to claim 16, wherein said effective amount is 1 mg to 10 g per day.

19. The method according to claim 16, wherein said effective amount is 10 mg to 5 g per day per day.

20. The method according to claim 16, wherein said effective amount is 100 mg to 1 g per day.